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CHINA-SHIP

*Scowcroft, LL*

PARIS (AP) -- CHINESE DEPUTY PREMIER TENG HSIAO PING BURST INTO LAUGHTER TODAY WHEN ASKED HOW PEKING WOULD REACT TO A POSSIBLE AMERICAN MILITARY INTERVENTION TO RECOVER A U.S. MERCHANT SHIP CAPTURED BY CAMBODIA.

"IF THEY INTERVENE, THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO," TENG TOLD NEWSMEN.

OTHER CHINESE OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING TENG, REGARDED AS THE NO. 3 PERSON IN THE PEKING HIERARCHY, ALSO LAUGHED AT HIS REMARK. TENG LEFT IN DOUBT WHETHER HE INTENDED HIS REMARK TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION REFUSED TO ELABORATE.

TENG EMERGED FROM THE ELYSEE PALACE AFTER A ONE-HOUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING ON THE SECOND DAY OF HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE AND SAID: "WE HAD SOME VERY FRANK DISCUSSIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS WHICH INTEREST US." HE INDICATED THAT THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED INCLUDED INDOCHINA AND EUROPE, BUT GAVE NO DETAILS.

A REPORTER ASKED WHETHER CHINA WAS PREPARED TO MEDIATE IN THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE NEW COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES IN CAMBODIA OVER THE SEIZURE OF THE MAYAGUEZ. WASHINGTON REPORTS HAVE SAID PRESIDENT FORD IS SEEKING DIPLOMATIC INTERVENTION BY CHINA AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO TRY TO RECOVER THE SHIP AND THE 39-MAN CREW.

"YOU ARE JOURNALISTS," TENG REPLIED WITH A LAUGH. "YOU HAVE MORE RECENT INFORMATION THAN I."

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